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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MONDAY, November 18, 2002  
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## **BPA creates new position to address industry restructuring**

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The Bonneville Power Administration announced this week it is creating a new executive-level position to address issues related to restructuring of the wholesale electricity industry. BPA Administrator Steve Wright has named Allen Burns executive vice president for Industry Restructuring. Burns will join the front office executive team, which also includes the deputy administrator and chief operations officer.

“It has become increasingly obvious that national restructuring issues require our full-time attention given their complexity and their importance to the future of the region’s federal assets,” Wright said. “By creating this new position, we expect to promote greater coordination and alignment on issues that cut across our transmission and power business lines.” The business lines will report to Burns on restructuring matters.

Burns and his staff will have responsibility for restructuring initiatives raised by both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Congress. FERC has called for formation of regional transmission organizations and, most recently, has released a Standard Market Design proposal aimed at greater standardization in the nation’s bulk power markets. Congress also continues to pursue restructuring legislation. These national initiatives could have major impacts on the Northwest.

“It will be extremely important that such initiatives recognize regional differences, as FERC has said it will do, to ensure that citizens of the Northwest realize benefits,” Wright said.

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The Pacific Northwest, for example, is the only region of the country that derives most of its electricity from hydropower, which is a weather-dependent resource and requires flexibilities that are not needed in regions that depend entirely on thermal plants. Transmission in the region also traverses much greater geographical distances than those in East Coast states, whose market design was used as the model for much of FERC's Standard Market Design's proposal.

BPA's work on RTO West, the proposed regional transmission organization, had previously been headed by the agency's Transmission Business Line. Transmission Senior Vice President Mark Maher and his staff will continue to work with Burns and support the transition.

"This is a logical time to make this change as the RTO West filing utilities have successfully completed two FERC filings," Wright said. He added, "BPA's goal continues to be development of a regional transmission organization that provides benefits to the Northwest. BPA will continue to work with the region's other transmission owners toward this goal."

The agency will, however, reserve a decision about joining RTO West until there is greater certainty that it incorporates the necessary features to provide those benefits.

Burns moves into his new position effective immediately. He was formerly vice president for Requirements Marketing in BPA's Power Business Line and has a background in both transmission and power.

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